



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

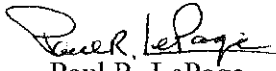
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 25, "An Act To Regulate Domestic Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Use."

This bill requires the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety to gather and report, on an annual basis, information concerning the use of UAVs by law enforcement agencies throughout the State, but does not appropriate additional fiscal resources for such research and reporting to be completed. To the extent that municipal and county law enforcement agencies would need to collect and, on an annual basis, submit such information to the Commissioner in order to inform the report, then the bill creates an unfunded mandate on municipalities and counties Statewide.

For these reasons, I return LD 25 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

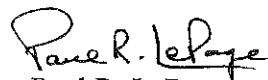
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 63, "Resolve, To Require the Department of Health and Human Services To Provide Supplemental Reimbursement to Adult Family Care Homes and Residential Care Facilities in Remote Island Locations."

This resolve requires the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a waiver request to the federal government to allow the State to pay increased reimbursement to adult family care homes and residential care facilities on Maine islands. The resolve also requires the Department to complete rulemaking to achieve the increased reimbursement. The "remote islands" in question are those inaccessible by road. There are three such facilities in Maine: one on Chebeague Island in Casco Bay, one on Vinalhaven, and one on Islesboro. These three facilities have increased overhead due to higher gasoline and energy costs, as well as higher food costs.

I have long been a supporter of adequate Medicaid reimbursement for our long-term care facilities. This is why I proposed increased reimbursement for them in my budget change package. The budget that was passed already includes rate increases for these island facilities, as well as the others around the state. When we consider rate increases, we should look at the challenges that all of the facilities face, not just a select few that have chosen to do business in more expensive locations.

For these reasons, I return LD 63 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:


Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 78, "An Act Regarding Limitations on Certain Storm Water Fees."

This bill would remove a provision of law exempting the Department of Transportation and the Maine Turnpike Authority from fees or taxes imposed by municipal water ordinances. LD 78 is yet another example of just how convoluted relationships between state and local governments and the taxpayers that fund both have become.

Each year, Maine taxpayers pay subsidies to municipal governments through revenue sharing and many other programs. The result of these payments is to hide the true cost of local government, resulting in bloated government that hurts the very people bankrolling it – the taxpayer. If we are to ever reduce the cost of government, we must reconnect the taxpayer directly with the government they are paying for.

For these reasons, I return LD 78 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 86, "An Act To Improve Retirement Security for Retired Public Employees."

When I first took office four years ago, the challenges were many and the work ahead was immense. Maine was in the midst of the Great Recession, the economic outlook was bleak, and our government was in desperate need of reform. Instead of hiding from our state's challenges, my administration faced them head on. This was an important departure from "business as usual" in Augusta.

One of the challenges I first encountered as a newly elected governor was the \$4.1 billion public pension unfunded actuarial liability (UAL). This staggering liability was left by previous gubernatorial administrations and decades of one-party control by Democrats in Maine's Legislature. Simply put, politicians made promise after promise to state employees without regard for cost or the State's ability to keep them.

I worked with the 125th Maine Legislature to address the UAL and bring meaningful reform to a clearly broken system. The retirement age for non-vested and newly hired state employees was increased from 62 to 65 years of age. My plan also capped the cost of living adjustments retirees receive at 3 percent for the first \$20,000. However, it is important to note that this amount is indexed, ensuring protection of the retirement benefit of former state employees.

As a result of these important reforms, the State's UAL was reduced from \$4.1 billion to \$2.4 billion—a decrease of 41 percent, moving us that much closer to retiring this significant liability in full and on schedule. In just the last four years, these changes have saved hardworking Maine families nearly \$700 million in pension costs.

Our goal, which we achieved, was to strengthen the financial foundation of our state employee and teacher retirement system while maintaining the original plan design for years to

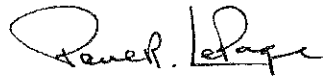


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come. The demands of the public employees' retirement system have historically exceeded the state's capacity to pay them – regardless of the state of our economy. Taking advantage of an actuarial assumption in order to provide a financial benefit to retirees they would not otherwise be entitled to is poor public policy at best and an insult to Maine taxpayers at worst.

For these reasons, I return LD 86 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Paul R. LePage". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "L".

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

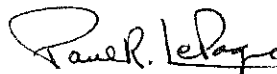
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 93, "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Pine Tree Development Zone Benefits for the Town of Berwick and the City of Sanford."

LD 93 is bad public policy as it allows politicians to arbitrarily carve out specific areas and activities for inclusion in the Pine Tree Development Zone Program. This is a special interest piece of legislation at the expense of all Maine taxpayers. The integrity of this incentive program is compromised when politicians pick winners and losers in our economy.

This bill also is symptomatic of the "you scratch my back, I'll scratch your back" mentality that exists among legislators in Augusta. This bill is the product of combining two separate bills, each of which would have never passed through the Legislature on their own merit. But because of political gamesmanship we have a bill that is fraught with cronyism and is not in the best interest for the entire State of Maine.

For these reasons, I return LD 93 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 113, "An Act To Reduce the Penalties for Certain Drug Offenses."

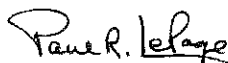
This bill would severely undermine the ability of the State to prosecute individuals who are involved in the importation, transportation and distribution of highly addictive and often deadly drugs. It would reduce certain felony possession offenses to misdemeanors for first-time offenders. Under the terms of this bill, an offender caught in possession of massive amounts of drugs could merely get a slap on the wrist regardless of how dangerous those drugs are or how large the quantity. As long as the offender had a clean record, the danger that individual poses to the people of Maine would be virtually disregarded.

I am sure it would surprise the Maine people to know there are lobbying groups in Augusta that constantly fight against the efforts of law enforcement to remove illegal drugs from our streets. Worse still, there are lawmakers in Augusta who, for some reason, ally themselves with those lobbying groups.

The specific lobbying group behind this bill, which is sponsored by Senator Roger Katz of Augusta, is the Maine Civil Liberties Union. I do not find it particularly surprising this bill is championed by that lobbying group or by that lawmaker. However, given its many dangerous elements, I am surprised and appalled that it has reached my desk. In no uncertain terms, this bill imperils the health and safety of Maine people. Maine is being deluged with illegal drugs and law enforcement is already struggling to keep our children and our streets safe. It would be unconscionable for the Legislature to pass this bill.

For these reasons, I return LD 113 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

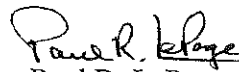
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 140, "An Act To Expand Access to Lifesaving Opioid Overdose Medication."

This bill removes many of the safeguards that the 126th Legislature put in place regarding standing orders for naloxone hydrochloride. Now, instead of prescribing naloxone to family members of an individual at risk of drug overdose, a health care practitioner with no established relationship to a drug user can prescribe the drug to friends or other people who might assist during an overdose. Previously, the health care practitioner who prescribed the drug had to have an established relationship to the drug user. The practitioner also had to document in the chart each person who received a prescription to provide to the drug user and that the intent was that such medication be administered to the user.

I have been opposed to the use of naloxone because I believe it encourages, rather than discourages, drug use. In the last year, I have been informed about drug addicts getting multiple naloxone treatments in the span of a week. Clearly, the lack of consequences for serious drug use is having the opposite effect from what was advertised.

For these reasons, I return LD 140 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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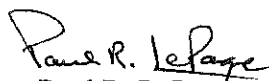
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 155, "Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study Difficult-to-place Patients."

This resolve sets up a commission to study the feasibility of making policy changes to the long-term care system in Maine in order to assist in placing complex patients. The goals of the commission are laudable, but it makes no sense for the Legislature to tell the Governor exactly who to put on such a commission. These resolves always come so highly scripted in terms of membership for commissions that it makes no sense to even involve the Governor. Forcing him or her to go through the formal process of selecting who the Legislature has already selected for commission membership is a waste of executive branch time.

For these reasons, I return LD 155 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 164, "An Act To Establish the Maine Length of Service Award Program."

LD 164 would establish a new statewide pension-type program for certain municipal public safety volunteers. Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians are critically important to all of Maine's municipalities and citizens. These brave men and women fulfill their civic responsibility in an especially meaningful manner. Their public service is laudable and should be encouraged.

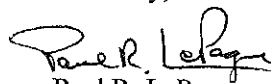
Unfortunately, this bill, while well-intentioned, is fundamentally flawed. It removes local control, disrupts employer/employee relationships and expands state government at a time when the taxpayers of Maine can least afford it. A new state-run pension program for individuals who are not state employees is not sustainable.

In this instance, municipalities would be free to negotiate any compensation package to which the parties could reach agreement. The state would be bifurcated from those negotiations, acting as only a third-party participant in the obligation of the cost and payment of the retirement benefits, with no direct involvement in compensation or supervision of employees. This arrangement would leave absolutely no mechanism at the state level for regulating escalating pension costs ultimately controlled and imposed individually at the local level. This paradigm of using a state-funded retirement benefit to relieve the burden of recruitment and retention issues for local public safety volunteers of some localities on the backs of all Maine municipalities and citizens is fundamentally unfair.

Our state is already carrying an enormous burden for pension costs from the days when school employee pensions were shifted from the local level. The demands of the public employees' retirement system have historically exceeded the state's capacity to pay them. Opening ourselves to new pension obligations for liabilities controlled at the local level is unwise. Prudence and common-sense dictate I not put at risk millions of dollars of hard-working Mainer's money by letting the state once again stroll down a road paved with good intentions.

For this reason, I return LD 164 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 170, "An Act To Remove the 180-day Active Duty Requirement for the Property Tax Exemption for Vietnam Veterans."

My wife Ann and I are deeply committed to supporting our veterans. The men and women who join the military and put their lives on the line for our country have earned a debt of gratitude that we can never repay. That is why it was so important to eliminate the income tax on military pensions, and let our retired military lead the way in benefitting from the tax relief that all Mainers deserve.

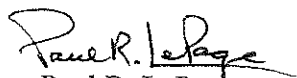
For any and all members of the military who are retired or retiring, my message to you is simple: the State of Maine welcomes you, appreciates you, and values you. Young military retirees have valuable skills to offer Maine companies. We want you to raise your children in Maine and contribute to our communities and economy.

However, I am concerned that this is an unnecessary bill that will not actually deliver the desired impact and will serve to confuse our veterans, leading them to think they are eligible for things that they are not. The federal government provides the lion's share of benefits to our veterans and a small change to state law cannot change federal benefits for those who have served.

I cannot support a bill that is misleading to veterans and does not deliver impact and would only muddy the waters for how the state defines and treats our veterans.

For these reasons, I return LD 170 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 186 "An Act To Reverse Jail Consolidation."

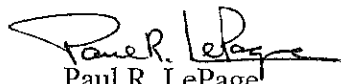
This bill does not do what the title implies. It simply transfers the powers and duties of the Board of Corrections to the Department of Corrections without providing the appropriate resources to comply with the new requirements.

The bill seeks to codify an approach to jail operations and financing that is widely regarded as an example of what not to do. I am disappointed that the challenge of jail management so vastly outstretched the intellectual capability of the Legislature. There was a time that I thought the 127th Legislature would be equal to the task. This bill is ample evidence that I was mistaken.

At this point in time, it hardly is worth repeating that any system of jail governance crafted by a rational mind would contain a direct chain of command that would place responsibility for funding the jails with the same people responsible for operating the jails. Such a common sense solution should be clear to anyone who has followed the disaster of the Board of Corrections saga that has resulted in bloated budgets and wasteful spending. That the Legislature passed this bill knowing of the irresponsible spending that has been occurring at the county level is a useful reminder of how little regard lawmakers have for Maine taxpayers.

For these reasons, I return LD 186 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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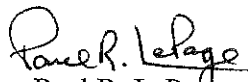
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 210, "An Act To Provide for Special Restrictions on Dissemination and Use of Criminal History Record Information for Class E Crimes Committed by an Adult under 21 Years of Age."

I am concerned that this could create a situation where one particular age group could get "relief" while others who committed the same crime could not. I do not believe such a result would be fair. Most importantly, I believe that the use of criminal history to determine access to vulnerable populations and to assess potential hires promotes the public safety.

For these reasons, I return LD 210 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

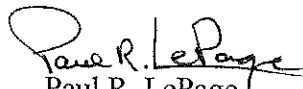
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 222, "An Act To Reduce Commercial Shellfish License Fees for Persons under 18 Years of Age."

This bill proposes reducing the fee for a commercial shellfish license by half for harvesters less than 18 years of age. While I appreciate trying to encourage more young people to harvest shellfish, I cannot support this bill. Licensing fees are set at the current level to reflect the cost of processing these licenses and managing this resource. If fees are not accurately set, then they should be reduced industry-wide and not simply for the benefit of one group of harvesters. Our marine resources belong to the people of Maine, and those who have the privilege of harvesting these resources should not expect the Maine people to also foot the bill for resource management.

I also disagree with the Legislature's approach to funding this bill. During Committee consideration of this proposal, an amendment was added to delay the effective date of this bill. Lest anyone mistake this amendment as a sign of good governance, let me make clear that this is just one budget gimmick in the Legislature's seemingly bottomless bag of tricks. This "buy now, pay later" mentality has gone on for far too long in Augusta.

For these reasons, I return LD 222 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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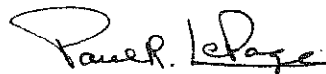
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 231, "An Act To Ensure That Schoolchildren with Dyslexia Receive the Assistance Needed."

My support for dyslexia training has never required legislation. Two years ago, I provided money from the Governor's contingency fund to support such training, and the Department of Education has been working to provide support to teachers throughout Maine to ensure they are well equipped to meet the needs of students with dyslexia. While I am glad to see the Legislature is now joining the effort to understand dyslexia, raise awareness, and help address the needs of this important group of Mainers, our work over the past few years shows that much can be accomplished without legislation and the State is already headed in the right direction.

For this reason, I return LD 231 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 234, "An Act Regarding the Mountain View Youth Development Center."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

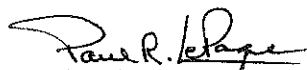
This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For this reason, I return LD 234 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

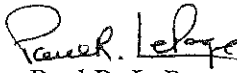
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 260, "Resolve, To Create a License Plate To Recognize the Centennial of the United States Navy Reserve."

As I stated in my June 23 line-item veto message for this bill, I have two serious concerns with this bill. This bill gives special recognition to one branch of our military over others. I support all of our branches of military and the brave men and women who serve. It is important to recognize them equally.

My other concern with this bill is that it uses Highway Fund dollars for a ceremonial purpose at a time when our transportation infrastructure requires significant financial investment. As elected officials we must prioritize our State's scarce transportation dollars and ensure that they are spent on projects which will benefit all Maine citizens.

For these reasons, I return LD 260 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
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Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 261, "Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission, the Maine Historic Preservation Commission and the Maine State Museum Commission To Study the Replacement of Statues in the National Statutory Hall Collection."

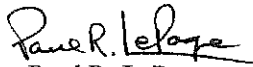
There are many important issues before the Legislature. This is not one of them. I am shocked and disappointed that the Legislature would prioritize this bill over tackling the real problems of our state, such as providing interest-free student loans to alleviate the student debt burden and ensure that Maine's future includes young people well-prepared for the jobs of the future.

While some may argue that the \$3,000 allocated in this bill is an insignificant sum, every dollar that the appropriators spend came from a hard-working Maine taxpayer. Voters sent us to Augusta to make Maine competitive, not to waste government time and money on pet projects that do not move Maine forward.

There are currently two statues in the National Statutory Hall Collection at the U.S. Capitol that represent Maine well, William King and Hannibal Hamlin. In fact, a portrait of William King, Maine's first Governor, hangs in my office. Rather than direct state agencies to study and debate the credentials and qualifications of historic Mainers, I invite the Legislature to join me in considering the real challenges that face our state's present and future.

For these reasons, I return LD 261 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

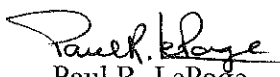
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 299, "An Act To Protect Children in School Facilities by Requiring Boiler Inspections."

This bill reinstates the requirement for municipalities to ensure school boilers are inspected. I am not opposed to this concept; in fact, the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation proposed a similar measure. The state inspection requirement was removed last session, when the Maine Municipal Association lobbied to repeal it. The Legislature now wishes to put the mandate back into law. It seems the Legislature's interest in home rule is fleeting and unsure, but perhaps this veto can provide it another opportunity to weigh the considerations of uniformity and safety against the home rule it often says it seeks.

For these reasons, I return LD 299 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

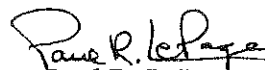
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 319, "An Act To Strengthen the Economic Stability of Qualified Maine Citizens by Expanding Coverage of Reproductive Health Care and Family Services."

This Medicaid expansion bill extends taxpayer-funded coverage for a single service—family planning—to persons up to 209% of federal poverty level. Many individuals to whom this coverage would extend are already required to purchase health insurance, and can receive subsidized coverage through the exchange. All of these plans already cover family planning as part of the essential health benefits mandate, including reliable contraceptives, annual gynecological exams, Pap tests, and even voluntary sterilization.

There is no reason to provide a taxpayer-funded Medicaid benefit to individuals otherwise ineligible for Medicaid when they already have private health insurance coverage for family planning benefits. For those individuals who intend to make less than 100% of federal poverty level and therefore do not qualify for subsidized private insurance, family planning and health clinics across the state often already charge on a sliding scale, which they indicate is affordable for their clients.

Furthermore, this bill would add 15 positions to the state employee headcount at a time when taxpayers want smaller government. I vetoed nearly the exact same bill in the 126th Legislature, and that veto was sustained. For these reasons, I return LD 319 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 369, "An Act To Clarify the Immigration Status of Noncitizens Eligible for General Assistance."

As originally designed, this bill would have reaffirmed that general assistance cannot be provided to aliens who, under federal law, are ineligible for state and local benefits. In the Senate, this bill was amended to do the opposite of what it first intended, becoming a vehicle to deliver general assistance benefits to noncitizens. States may choose to fund welfare benefits to ineligible noncitizens, including bona fide illegal aliens. That is what this law does.

Right now, families and churches and private organizations have every right to take in asylum seekers, to house, clothe, and feed them. Nothing is stopping them from providing the most basic form of charity to individuals they say they wish to help. Charitable acts are performed with unselfish intent. It is not charity to vote to take money out of other peoples' pockets to give away to these noncitizens, so legislators should stop congratulating themselves.

Furthermore, the Legislature's conclusion that this bill has no fiscal impact, or that the Senate's amendment creates a general fund savings, is a farce. My administration has eliminated the illegal provision of general assistance funds to these individuals, and we have been vindicated in the courts—my actions, not the Legislature's, are the source of the savings. For the Legislature to suggest that allowing these funds to flow to noncitizens for up to 24 months is a "savings" is like a visit to Alice's Wonderland—what's down is up, and what's up is down.

For these reasons, I return LD 369 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

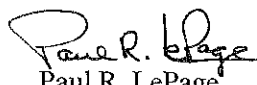
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 418, "Resolve, To Study the Use of Social Impact Bonds as a Funding Mechanism for Public Education Programs in Maine."

Once again, the Legislature has passed a resolve to study an issue rather than doing their job, bringing forth proposals and debating their merits to advance policy in the interest of the Maine people. In addition, the Legislature has an ongoing contract with the Maine Education Policy Research Institute (MEPRI) to conduct studies such as this. MEPRI has advised the Education Committee that this study is included in its work schedule and will be completed before the Legislature returns for the Second Regular Session. Therefore, this legislation is not necessary to accomplish the goal of understanding the use of Social Bonds for funding education initiatives.

This is an unnecessary bill. For these reasons, I return LD 418 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME


Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 431, "An Act To Strengthen the Laws Prohibiting Stalking."

This bill reduces from 2 to 1 the number of prior convictions in Maine or another jurisdiction that are needed in order for the crime of stalking to be elevated from a Class D misdemeanor to a Class C felony. Other jurisdictions often provide much harsher sentences than those that are provided in Maine. For this reason, I do not believe that convictions from other jurisdictions should be considered in the calculation of whether to elevate the crime to a felony.

For these reasons, I return LD 431 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:


Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 500, "Resolve, To Create a Working Group To Develop Solutions To Meet the Needs for Municipal Volunteer Personnel."

This working group is being constituted in order to trump local control. If this veto is overridden, we will see recommendations from this working group telling local towns and cities how to run their communities, which would undermine the authority of our local elected officials.

I have long believed that the government that is closest to the people governs best. With this bill, the Legislature has said they disagree, and I urge you to reconsider.

For these reasons, I return LD 500 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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State House
Augusta, ME

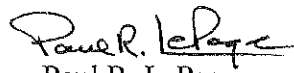
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 512 "An Act To Implement Certain Recommendations of the Criminal Law Advisory Commission Relative to the Maine Criminal Code."

I have a few objections to this bill. My first is that I would like to see "recklessness" defined within the bill. Further, I would like the term "child" defined. Additionally, I am concerned that this bill would remove discretion from judges.

For these reasons, I return LD 512 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 522, "An Act To Clarify a Recently Enacted Law Designed To Expand the Number of Qualified Educators."

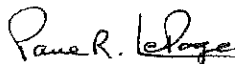
As I wrote to the 126th Legislature, this bill furthers the attempt of some in the Legislature to roll back hard-won reforms put in place in 2011. Now, it seeks to extend the same bad policy to the unorganized territories. Even if this bill only impacts one teacher, my position has not changed. Bad policy is bad policy, period.

Teachers who are not ready to retire should simply continue teaching, not add to the financial burden on the pension system for their own financial gain. Keeping our retirement fund solvent is important to all state employees and educators who are the beneficiaries of these funds. Allowing people to benefit financially at the expense of these retirement funds is not fair to those hard-working teachers who choose not to start drawing their pension until they are truly ready to retire.

The Legislature should work on solutions that help young teachers find positions and receive professional development rather than making it harder for them to find positions.

For these reasons, I return LD 522 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

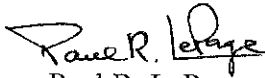
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 582, "An Act To Establish a State Medicaid Officer."

This bill provides funding for a position to serve as a liaison between the State and school administrative units to help the latter navigate the complexity of Medicaid billing. The Department of Health and Human Services is dedicated to working collaboratively with the Department of Education and local school districts to provide timely answers to billing and policy questions that impact services provided to Maine's children.

The Department of Health and Human Services already has met with educational stakeholders to identify areas for communication improvement. The Department is committed to improvement. Improvement in areas we are already responsible for does not equate always to adding more state employees at the taxpayers' expense.

For these reasons, I return LD 582 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

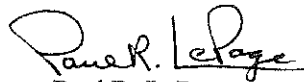
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 721, "Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans."

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of appointing a new director for the Bureau of Veterans Services, Adria Horn. A West Point graduate who deployed five times during her 14-year career in the U.S. Army and currently an Army reservist, Director Horn is off to a great start. I know Maine's veterans will be well served by her leadership as director.

The director is already hard at work addressing the issues identified in this bill. Establishing yet another committee to make recommendations will not fix the challenges facing our veterans, and it is a disservice to them to pass misleading legislation that does nothing to help veterans. In fact, if there is an issue that any legislator or member of the public would have wanted this Commission to address, please contact Director Horn at Adria.Horn@maine.gov or 207-430-6034 and the Bureau will be happy to look into it. It's already their job.

A constituent recently reminded me of the saying, "After all is said and done, more is said than done!" This bill exemplifies that statement, and so I must return LD 721 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

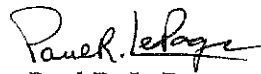
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 722, "An Act To Strengthen Penalties for Abuse of General Assistance."

Currently, individuals who misrepresent material facts on an application for general assistance are guilty of a Class E crime. This bill establishes a repayment requirement for individuals who have received general assistance after willingly making false statements on an application. While the original bill required repayment in full before the individual could again be eligible to receive general assistance, the amended version allows that individual to be eligible for assistance if they enter into a payment plan.

This bill marks an improvement over existing law, but I still believe it does not go far enough. The original bill was the better option, and truly sent a signal that lying to obtain public benefits will not be tolerated.

For these reasons, I return LD 722 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 727, "An Act To Allow the Retrofit of Underground Oil Storage Tanks."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

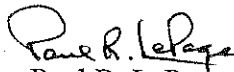
This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For this reason, I return LD 727 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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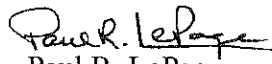
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 729, "An Act To Add Acetylfentanyl and Methylfentanyl Derivatives to the List of Schedule W Drugs."

I am concerned we are tinkering with our laws that deal with illegal drugs while more and more of our citizens are being destroyed because we do not have the appropriate resources to enforce the laws on the books. The Legislature needs to prioritize the funding of new MDEA agents.

For these reasons, I return LD 729 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 756, "An Act To Enhance the Address Confidentiality Program Regarding Property Records."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

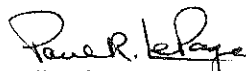
This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For this reason, I return LD 756 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
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16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 767, "An Act To Create Jobs in Aroostook and Washington Counties."

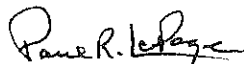
This bill is bad public policy, plain and simple. LD 767 exempts call centers in Aroostook and Washington Counties, employing 50 or more people, from meeting current Pine Tree Development Zone (PTDZ) wage threshold requirements, which are required by all other PTDZ businesses throughout Maine.

This bill would allow state incentives for the creation of call center jobs paying \$12 an hour (combined salary and benefits). The current wage threshold in these two counties requires more than \$17 an hour (combined salary and benefits) in order for any other business to qualify for the program. If LD 767 becomes law, a manufacturer in these two same counties paying in excess of \$15 an hour (combined salary and benefits) would not qualify for PTDZ incentives because the Legislature did not enact a special carve-out.

This bill will undoubtedly open the door to more targeted policy initiatives aimed at circumventing the real intent of the Pine Tree Development Zone program.

The PTDZ rules are in place and they apply evenly to all business types based on location. It is bad policy for Augusta to arbitrarily hand pick the winners and losers based on politic pressure. I therefore return LD 767 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 787, "An Act To Provide Tax Credits for Adult Day Care and Respite and Hospice Care."

LD 787 would create a new tax expenditure in Maine's tax code for expenses paid for adult dependent daycare, hospice services and respite care. While I understand and appreciate the intent of this proposal, legislation such as this flies in the face of what is generally considered good tax policy.

Earlier this year, I introduced a tax reform and relief plan that aimed to make Maine's tax system competitive, stable, simple and fair. By reducing tax loopholes and giveaways to targeted groups, we can reduce income tax rates for all Maine people. Ultimately, my long-term vision is a Maine without any income tax. Reaching that important milestone will result in more money in the pockets of all Maine citizens and eliminate the unnecessary carve outs and complex tax credits that exist in our income tax code. It will also lead to a state that attracts and retains young people. If we continue on our current path, all Maine people will soon be of an age requiring the care this bill envisions.

For these reasons, I return LD 787 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

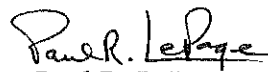
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 831, "Resolve, To Reduce MaineCare Spending through Targeted Prevention Services."

This bill turns Meals on Wheels, a federally funded food benefit for homebound elderly or disabled individuals, into a Medicaid-reimbursable service. I veto this for several reasons. First, the language of this bill and the funding for it are already in the budget; this bill is redundant. This bill also is unsupportable because it harms the very people it purports to help, and it also creates an unnecessary general fund expense.

Meals on Wheels currently provides services to 4,430 individuals in Maine. The federal government is providing approximately 92% of the millions of dollars spent on this program in Maine. If Meals on Wheels becomes Medicaid-reimbursable, the State will have to increase its general fund in order to get a lower federal match, and the service will be subject to greater limitation for eligibility and spending. Covering this service under MaineCare Benefits Manual Section 19 means that Meals on Wheels are counted against the spending cap for the individual getting those services. Consequently, the individual covered under Section 19 may have to forego other health-related services in order to get their meals. While I have no philosophical objection to tightening eligibility standards, I do take issue with providing food as a covered service to an individual subject to a spending cap.

For these reasons, I return LD 831 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

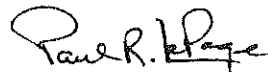
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 840, "An Act To Collect and Report Data on the Implementation of Proficiency-based Diplomas and Standards-based Student Learning."

This legislation requires school administrative units (SAUs) to report to the Department of Education the number of students graduating with proficiency based diplomas as well as the number of students who are awarded proficiency in each of the 8 content areas. It creates an unfunded mandate on the SAUs by creating new filing requirements.

This government overreach into the local school administrative unit is another example of inappropriate data collection regarding students. The school administrative unit has been tasked with ensuring our students are brought to the appropriate level of proficiency. The local school board, elected to oversee the mission of the educating our students, is the responsible entity for ensuring that the goals are met.

I do not support government overreach and therefore I return LD 840 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 853, "An Act To Allow Secondary Schools To Grant Certificates of Academic Proficiency."

Maine is a local control state and SAUs may already award any kind of certificate should they choose, including proficiency certificates. This bill is unnecessary. In addition it creates an unfunded mandate by requiring the SAU's who choose to award content area certificates in proficiency to report the issuance of the certificates to the Department of Education.

At a time when Maine students are overburdened by student loans, I am astounded that the Legislature continues to focus its time on bills that do nothing to help Maine students, such as this bill, which I return to you unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 870, "An Act To Amend the Maine Spruce Budworm Management Laws."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.


This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For this reason, I return LD 870 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

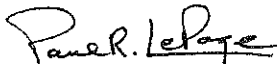
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 905, "Resolve, To Study Allocations of the Fund for a Healthy Maine."

This resolve requires the Commissioners of the Departments of Health and Human Services, Education, and Administrative and Financial Services, as well as the Director of the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to assist the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services in conducting an unnecessary and redundant study of how to allocate Fund for a Healthy Maine dollars.

The proposed study ignores the existing work of stakeholders and State personnel in creating the State Health Improvement Plan. It dismisses the program performance improvement strategies undertaken by the Department of Health and Human Services, which has placed tobacco and obesity programs on corrective action. This study assumes that dollars achieve results, which simply is not true. Additionally, the approach of this study interferes with the Department's well-publicized timeline for procurement of comprehensive health coalition activities. In sum, there are better ways to do the business of public health in Maine.

For these reasons, I return LD 905 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 921, "An Act To Strengthen the Right of a Victim of Sexual Assault or Domestic Violence To Take Necessary Leave from Employment and To Promote Employee Social Media Privacy."

The Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee amended LD 921 at the last minute to include the provisions of LD 686, "An Act To Promote Privacy in Social Media." LD 921 is well-intentioned, and, as a strong advocate for ending domestic violence, I can agree with its purpose but would suggest some revisions. On the other hand, LD 686 is a solution in search of a problem.

LD 921 seeks to ensure domestic violence victims have an opportunity to go to court, find a new place to live, or seek treatment or shelter and still keep their job. Maine employers are generally compassionate toward the victims on their staff and try to accommodate their needs even without the incentive of fines under current law. The Department of Labor has received fewer than 10 complaints in the past several years, not all of which have proved valid upon further investigation. If an employer must deny leave and is challenged, \$4,000 total cost is steep. Many of our labor-law violations do not carry a total fine that high. This bill also allows the victim, if terminated, to return to the job with back pay. Although this may seem like a good idea, if you were fired from your job because the employer could not accommodate requests for leave related to domestic abuse, which required an investigation by the Department of Labor, a return to work might not improve the employer-employee relationship, creating more problems in an already stressful situation.

As to the provisions added to this bill from LD 686, private email accounts have been around for more than two decades, and we have not seen a rash of complaints about employers trying to access their employees' private email accounts. Employers do not have the time nor the interest to police employee use of personal email and social media unless it is detrimental to the business or a staff person is harassing a customer or co-worker.

The Department of Labor has the legal authority to regulate those elements of the employer-employee relationship that are specific to the contractual nature of employment. When we as

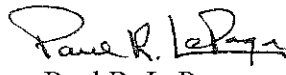


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workers enter into that relationship, we do not need the state to intercede on our behalf for those rights we retain in any relationship as citizens with the right of free speech. This bill would divert staff from the important work of ensuring people who have earned their paycheck receive it, where the state does have a legitimate role, to policing difficult to substantiate employer-employee disagreements.

Everyone must learn to understand and use social media responsibly in all contexts of our lives, but having the Department of Labor fine employers is not the way to encourage such responsibility. Joining this bill to LD 921, a bill that is well intentioned but requires further work, was one more in a long line of legislative branch errors in judgment. For these reasons, I return LD 921 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 941, "An Act To Improve Tax Expenditure Transparency and Accountability."

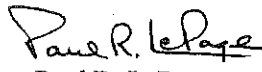
LD 941 unnecessarily exposes the State of Maine to the unauthorized release of very private and personal taxpayer information and is a burden on our tax system.

This bill requires Maine Revenue Services to reveal certain confidential taxpayer information to the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) upon their request. Although OPEGA is required to treat the disclosed information as confidential, any external release of confidential tax information to OPEGA and their contractors puts financial and identifying taxpayer information at risk of unauthorized disclosure.

My biennial budget proposal is an example of how a periodic review of tax expenditures by the executive and legislative branches can effectively serve the best interests of Maine taxpayers – by simplifying the tax code, the State can and should reduce the personal income tax rate until it is eliminated. At that time, there will be no more gimmicks and loopholes tucked into the income tax rate, and Maine will be on a pathway toward greater competitiveness.

For this reason, I return LD 941 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 983, "An Act To Clarify Wine Auction Licenses."

This bill illustrates a principle that I disagree with, the belief by some that government needs to regulate and control everything. Private wine cellars that choose to sell private property that they have already paid taxes on should be free to do so. This bill requires government control of that process, and therefore I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I return LD 983 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

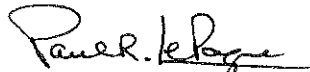
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1013 "An Act To Prevent the Shackling of Pregnant Prisoners and Pregnant Juveniles."

The Department of Corrections has already adopted practices and standards that limit the use of shackles on pregnant prisoners. These standards are followed not only because they constitute best practice, but also because their adoption is a requirement for facilities to obtain American Correctional Association accreditation.

For these reasons, I return LD 1013 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME


Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1039, "An Act To Amend the Polygraph Examiners Act."

As a general rule, I am opposed to bills that are introduced to benefit only one lone constituent. Such bills strike me as a product of the type of cronyism that is only too common in Augusta. Additionally, when I am told that a bill is merely a bill intended to "fix" a problem in a law that was caused by the introduction of legislation in a previous session of the Legislature, then I doubt that the legislators, in whom the mighty police power of the State of Maine is vested, are even reading the bills they pass.

For this reason, I return LD 1039 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:


Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1040, "An Act To Enhance Funding Opportunities for the Youth Conservation Corps."

This bill proposes a new program that is unnecessarily duplicative of ongoing efforts by the Department of Environmental Protection to reduce shoreline erosion. The Department carries out significant work to reduce shoreline erosion, including administering shoreland zoning laws; implementing a contractor certification program that provides training and certification to those who wish to work in the shoreland zone; and administering and enforcing the Natural Resources Protection Act and the Erosion and Sediment Control Law, which specify standards for minimizing erosion and sedimentation to water bodies. In light of the extensive work undertaken by the Department, further requirements that the Department contract with a private organization to complete the same work is unnecessary.

More troubling is that this bill proposes stacking the competitive bidding process that is central to the sound expenditure of public funds in favor of a particular source of labor. This bill specifies that a youth conservation corps must undertake the labor prescribed by the program. If the State is to expend funds, then the public should be allowed to compete for those funds on equal footing, rather than earmarking allocations for favored groups.

Protecting our waters from pollution is important and is an integral part of what the Department of Environmental Protection does every day. Creating a new program for the Department to administer that duplicates existing efforts is not an effective use of State resources. For these reasons, I return LD 1040 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

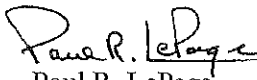
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1042, "Resolve, To Create the Task Force on School Leadership."

Rather than tackle head on the problems that we all know are facing Maine students, this bill is another unfunded mandate that does nothing to fix the real problems of our state education system.

Furthermore, this bill is unnecessary. The US Department of Education requires that all states submit plans to ensure equitable access to effective educators (teachers and principals). The Department of Education already utilizes an ongoing stakeholder group as required by US DOE to prioritize strategies to help attract, prepare and support effective teachers and principals.

For this reason, I return LD 1042 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
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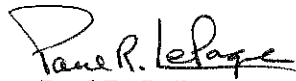
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1044, "An Act To Ensure That Collection Facilities Can Participate in the Architectural Paint Stewardship Program."

This bill makes yet more amendments to Maine's law creating an architectural paint product stewardship program. In 2013, the Legislature established this new product stewardship program. Then in 2014, this law was amended for the first time. In what appears to be an annual occurrence, the Legislature has decided, again, to amend this same section of code. Due to these perpetual changes, the Department of Environmental Protection is forced to react and the actual implementation of this program is further and further delayed. While the Legislature did include modest funding for the rulemaking activity that will result from these latest proposed changes, I am concerned that the funding provided does not actually account for the true cost of rulemaking that will result from this bill.

For this reason, I return LD 1044 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

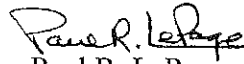
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1085, "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Receipt of a Request for Public Records."

I am all for transparency in government, and I have made that clear throughout my tenure as Governor. My administration has fulfilled more FOAA requests than any other Governor in modern history.

That said, I object to continuing attempts by the Legislature to amend and/or focus on the Freedom of Access Act (FOAA) when it exempts itself from the FOAA requirements. I will not support amending or changing FOAA laws as long as bills like this one disproportionately burden the Executive Branch, while allowing the Legislative Branch to hide from public scrutiny.

For this reason, I return LD 1085 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

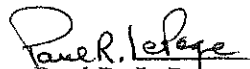
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1108, "An Act To Protect Children and the Public from Vapor from Electronic Smoking Devices."

This bill redefines smoking to include using an electronic cigarette, and applies the same regulations for second-hand smoke to the vapor given off by such a device. Currently, employers, municipalities, organizations, and other entities already can restrict the use of electronic cigarettes. This bill applies a one-size-fits-all approach by regulating electronic cigarettes in the strictest possible manner.

I would have less issue with this if there were scientific evidence of harm caused by second-hand inhalation of electronic cigarette vapor. As it stands now, however, many individuals use electronic cigarettes to obtain nicotine in a less harmful way than by smoking tobacco or even to help them quit smoking. Given these considerations, it is inappropriate to regulate electronic cigarette vapor, especially for those devices utilizing closed systems, to the same degree as tobacco smoke.

For these reasons, I return LD 1108 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1145, "An Act To Improve Maine's Involuntary Commitment Processes."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For these reasons, I return LD 1145 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1160, "An Act To Make Possession of a Firearm with an Altered or Obscured Serial Number a Class C Crime."

Part of the bill would make it a Class C crime to possess and transport a firearm that has had its make, model or serial number information intentionally altered. This portion of the bill is too harsh.

For this reason, I return LD 1160 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

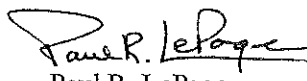
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1166, "An Act To Protect Taxpayers by Regulating Personal Services Contracts."

The scope of LD 1166 is overly broad and the benefits few to non-existent. This legislation will result in unintended consequences, inaccurate comparisons, and create requirements for additional resources to comply with the subsequent rules. Without direct evidence showing that the State of Maine is making poor procurement decisions, LD 1166 requires a significant amount of work for an issue that is unlikely to exist. Any benefits will likely be outweighed by the costs and staff time required to produce what will ultimately be inaccurate comparisons.

This bill is fatally flawed and takes the State in the wrong direction. For these reasons, I return LD 1166 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

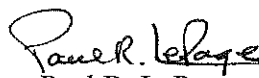
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1185, "An Act To Establish the Municipal Gigabit Broadband Network Access Fund."

In order for Maine's economy to move forward, part of what we need is reliable, affordable broadband internet access across more of our state. That we can all agree. Several weeks ago I attended a launch event for a company whose goal is to ultimately deliver this type of service to 90 percent of Maine. That is just one company. It should come as no surprise; the private sector is already way ahead of Augusta politicians in identifying a business opportunity and implementing a real strategy to deliver a needed product and service.

LD 1185 only muddies the water and complicates the work already taking place in the private sector. It provides an allocation of \$500 for municipalities to access a fund that doesn't exist, therefore delivering no tangible results. Over the course of the most recent legislative session I have seen far too much of this "feel good" type of legislation.

Creating this program is unnecessary and is nothing more than a solution in search of a problem. I return LD 1185 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

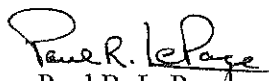
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1202, "Resolve, To Ensure the Stocking of Inland Waters in the State."

This resolve allows the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to spend up to \$700,000 to conduct engineering studies and to purchase fish for stocking efforts. The resolve would allow the Department to contract for two separate engineering studies: one to examine potential improvements to an existing hatchery; and one to examine the feasibility of constructing a new hatchery. From there, the Department would be required to submit a report to the Legislature regarding these engineering studies along with recommendations for legislation by February 1, 2016.

I object to this resolve because it establishes completely unrealistic timeframes. Any engineering studies would have to be competitively bid through the RFP process. Potential bidders have preliminarily reviewed this resolve and have stated that they would not be able to finalize these studies before May of 2016, well after the deadline for the report and recommendations set forth in the resolve. Why commission a study if the Legislature is prepared to move forward without the benefit of this costly analysis? Moreover, I do not support the funding mechanism for these studies, should they be undertaken. If the Legislature wants to commission engineering studies, then the Legislature should pay for these studies and not simply raid the Department's carrying account. This is more budgeting sleight of hand that I do not support.

For these reasons, I return LD 1202 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

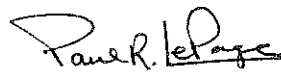
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1205, "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support the Independence of Maine's Seniors."

LD 1205 is a "pet project" bond that borrows money on the backs of Maine taxpayers. Throwing money at a difficult problem is an all-too-familiar tactic for politicians. But a general obligation bond is not free money. Someone has to pay the bill; unfortunately, it's the people of Maine.

Finding solutions to complex challenges requires new approaches using existing resources, such as those available at the Maine State Housing Authority and in the private marketplace. The easy way out is for legislators to treat Mainers' hard-earned money as their own and raid it like their piggy bank.

For these reasons, I return LD 1205 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

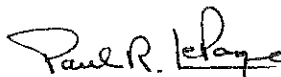
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1246, "An Act To Strengthen Laws Regarding the Manufacture and Sale of Methamphetamine and Other Drugs."

I want to be clear that I am extremely committed to stopping the sale of illegal drugs like methamphetamine in our state. However, this bill seeks to mask the failure of the Legislature to increase the number of MDEA agents. I am not interested in supporting a bill that has as its main objective providing political cover for those who did not support the creation of new MDEA positions. Rather, I am supremely interested in calling such lawmakers out. Such failure to prioritize resources where there is the greatest need is part of the reason why Maine is still plagued by illegal drug use.

For these reasons, I return LD 1246 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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GOVERNOR

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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1277, "An Act To Establish a Magnet School for Marine Science, Technology, Transportation and Engineering."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

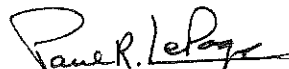
This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For these reasons, I return LD 1277 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1303, "An Act To Stabilize and Streamline the Department of Environmental Protection's Ground Water Oil Clean-up Fund and Maine Coastal and Inland Surface Oil Clean-up Fund."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

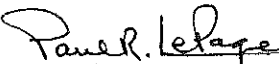
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For this reason, I return LD 1303 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

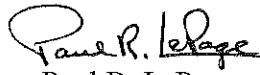
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1332, "An Act To Attract Entrepreneurs to the State."

Just by looking at the title of this bill, it's hard to imagine how anyone could possibly be opposed to this bill. But as you know, the devil is in the details. LD 1332 would create another grant program within the Department of Economic and Community Development. DECD would be required to issue grants to further support collaborative workspace businesses.

This bill is unnecessary, as nothing currently prevents these types of businesses or entrepreneurs from accessing grant funds and state incentives. These business types already have access to programs and incentives, and many co-ops throughout Maine have benefited. Future success stories will not be written based on the creation of yet another government program. It can be argued that government bureaucracy and red tape only impedes what is already happening organically. Co-working, shared office spaces are popping up in many areas from Bar Harbor to Portland without government unnecessarily stepping in to muddy the waters.

LD 1332 is unnecessary and I therefore return it unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1348, "An Act To Protect Older Adults from Financial Exploitation."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

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Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For this reason, I return LD 1348 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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State House
Augusta, ME

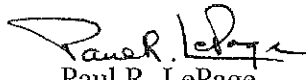
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1350, "Resolve, To Increase the Reimbursement Rate for Direct-care Workers Serving Adults with Long-term Care Needs."

This bill increases the reimbursement for certain home- and community-based services. My administration recognizes the importance of hiring and retaining direct care workers to allow individuals to stay at home and receive care as long as they are able. As such, the Department of Health and Human Services, through a third-party, is conducting a rate analysis to determine the appropriate reimbursement rate based on providers' costs to cover personnel and delivery of service. We agree with the intent of appropriately adjusting rates for direct care workers, but we believe the way in which this bill increases rates is arbitrary and not reflective of a thorough rate setting process.

For these reasons, I return LD 1350 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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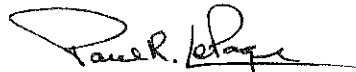
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1372, "An Act To Encourage the Redevelopment of Upper Floors of Buildings in Downtowns and on Main Streets."

This is another "feel good" bill with zero substance. This bill seeks to "encourage" the removal of obstacles to the reuse of buildings in downtowns and main streets across Maine. The people of Maine want and deserve results, not wishy-washy bills "encouraging" cities and towns to act a certain way. Instead of feel good bills used by politicians to clutter up re-election post cards, I would suggest having the courage to enact real, bold policy changes to deliver meaningful help to the people of Maine. That would be much more impactful than passing bills 'encouraging' Maine people to act a certain way at the local level.

For these reasons I return LD 1372 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1381, "An Act To Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Laws of Maine."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

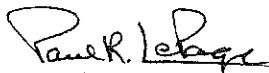
This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For this reason, I return LD 1381 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1391, "An Act Regarding the Treatment of Forensic Patients."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

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For this reason, I return LD 1391 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

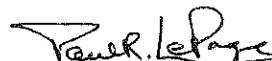
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1449, "An Act To Amend the State Election Laws."

Among other things, this bill changes the law to exempt a candidate in an uncontested primary from appointing a treasurer or filing campaign finance reports with the elections commission. Instead, this bill would allow these candidates to simply file a sworn statement. Under the current law, there is at least one person other than the candidate -- a treasurer -- who can confirm, through reporting, that the candidate is complying with the election laws. This bill, in essence, does away with accountability and transparency for candidates in uncontested primaries.

Speaking of accountability and transparency, this bill was passed at the last minute without so much as a public hearing. This sounds a lot like the budget bill that was passed even though many legislators did not even read it. I refuse to participate in the disenfranchisement of the Maine people.

For these reasons, I return LD 1449 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

16 July 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

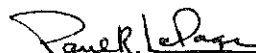
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1451, "An Act To Fund the Agreement with Certain Judicial Department Employees."

This bill funds the tentative agreement reached between the Judicial Branch and the Maine State Employees Association, which grants employees 1% general salary increase, effective September 1, 2015, another 1% general salary increase, effective July 1, 2016, and what is commonly known as "add a step / drop a step," which is an adjustment to the salary schedule for these employees that results in an across-the-board increase of approximately 4%.

I do not support an across-the-board increase of 4% under this "add a step / drop a step" scheme for a couple of reasons. First, I do not believe that the State is in a sound enough financial state to support what amounts to an approximate 6% increase over the biennium. In addition, I am particularly concerned about the issue of parity between the Judicial Branch and the Executive Branch. It appears that the Judicial Branch employees on average are already paid more than those in the Executive Branch. The three Executive Branch collective bargaining agreements that have been ratified do not give increases of this magnitude. In light of the Constitutional structure requiring three separate but equal branches of government, I cannot support such a large across-the-board increase for Judicial Branch employees when Executive Branch employees are already paid less.

For these reasons, I return LD 1451 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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